

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 04720 041301Z
ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 EUR-08 ACDA-10 NSCE-00
NSC-05 INR-05 CIAE-00 L-01 TRSE-00 SP-02 PRS-01
/058 W

-----081979 050019Z /62

R 031443Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5107
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4720

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS ET SO FR UK
SUBJECT: BRITISH AND FRENCH MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER, AUGUST 1, 1977

REF: ADDIS ABABA 4689

1. IN ADDITION TO SUMMONING US CHARGE AUG ONE, FONMIN ALSO
SUMMONED BRITISH CHARGE AND FRENCH AMBASSADOR. AS REPORTED
TO US, FONMIN ASKED THEM BOTH TWO QUESTIONS: A) CLARIFICATION
OF THEIR DECISIONS TO SUPPLY ARMS TO SOMALIA AND B) ATTITUDE
TOWARD TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY IN AFRICA.

2. BRITISH REPLY WAS ESSENTIALLY AS REPORTED REFTEL ALTHOUGH
BRITISH CHARGE TOLD US THAT FCO HAD PROVIDED HIM WITH
VAGUE ANSWER COUCHED IN OAU TERMS IN RESPONSE HIS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 04720 041301Z

QUESTION ON HMG'S POSITION ON TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.
ANSWER WAS NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR FONMIN WHO REPEATED QUES-
TION RATHER BLUNTLY. CHARGE THEN REPLIED THAT HMG SUP-
PORTED PRINCIPLE, WHICH IN FACT EXCEEDED HIS INSTRUCTIONS.

3. FRENCH COUNSELOR TOLD US FONMIN WAS TOLD FRANCE HAS
SUPPORTED PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY SINCE 1958

AND HAS SAID SO MANY TIMES. ON MATTER OF ARMS SUPPLY, AMBASSADOR ASKED WHERE MOFA HAD OBTAINED INFO THAT FRANCE WAS INVOLVED IN ANY ARRANGEMENT TO SUPPLY ARMS TO SOMALIA. FONMIN SHOWED HIM SHEAF OF NEWSPAPER REPORTS, WHEREUPON AMBASSADOR DISMISSED EPMG'S SOURCE AS SIMPLY NEWSPAPER REPORTING, THEN MAINTAINED THAT HE, AS FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO ETHIOPIA, KNEW NOTHING ABOUT ANY ALLEGED FRENCH DECISION RE ARMS FOR ETHIOPIA. MEETING ENDED AT THAT POINT.

4. COMMENT: ETHIOPIANS MUST BE RATHER CONFUSED AT THIS POINT ABOUT FRENCH, SO MUCH SO THAT THEY OMITTED ANY REFERENCE TO FRANCE IN ANNOUNCEMENT MADE EVENING AUG 2 CONCERNING AMERICAN AND BRITISH POSITIONS (REFTEL). WE CONFESS WE ARE TOO. COUNSELOR TOLD US STORY WITH PERFECTLY STRAIGHT FACE AS THOUGH FRENCH EMBASSY HERE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY FRENCH DECISION. FURTHERMORE, TELLING ETHIOPIANS THEY KNEW NOTHING IS RISKY BUSINESS UNLESS AMBASSADOR WAS STATING WHAT HE BELIEVED WAS CORRECT. IN ADDITION, WHEN ASKED WHETHER QUAI HAD MADE ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT IN WAKE OF WASHPOST ARTICLE, COUNSELOR REPLIED IN NEGATIVE SAYING THEY HAD MADE INQUIRY FROM HERE AND HAD RECEIVED NO REPLY. YET WE HAVE HEARD THAT SOME KIND OF STATEMENT WAS IN FACT MADE ALTHOUGH WE HAVE SEEN NO REFERENCE TO IT. SUBSTANCE OF FRENCH REPLY TO ETHIOPIANS SHOULD PROBABLY BE CLOSELY HELD, BUT WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY CLARIFICATION THAT EITHER DEPT OR PARIS COULD FURNISH.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ADDIS 04720 041301Z

TIENKEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ADDIS04720
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770280-0411
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708103/aaaadjvz.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b09c144f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 ADDIS ABABA 4689
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1411189
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRITISH AND FRENCH MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, AUGUST 1, 1977
TAGS: MASS, ET, SO, FR, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b09c144f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009